



# United States Air Force

FOREIGN TECHNOLOGY DIVISION  
AIR FORCE SYSTEMS COMMAND, WRIGHT-PATTERSON AFB, OH 45433 (513) 257-2917

## FOREIGN TECHNOLOGY DIVISION

The Foreign Technology Division (FTD) of the Air Force Systems Command (AFSC) at Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio, is responsible for producing scientific and technical (S&T) studies on the current aerospace capabilities and potential threats of major adversary powers. This information supports AFSC research and development (R&D) efforts to develop militarily superior aerospace weapon systems, provides the Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA) and Assistant Chief of Staff, Intelligence, HQ USAF, S&T information for inclusion in national intelligence estimates and satisfies the technical intelligence needs of Air Force operational commands.

FTD develops S&T intelligence by analyzing all available data on foreign aerospace weapon systems to determine their performance, characteristics, capabilities and vulnerabilities. The Division also evaluates surprise to the United States. Analysis responsibilities cover the full range of aerospace systems but primarily involve aircraft, ballistic missiles, space systems, radars, lasers, electronic countermeasures, communications, air defense systems, industrial resources and new technological advances with potential military applications.

## HISTORY

FTD traces its beginning to the Technical Data Laboratory formed in 1942 at Wright-Patterson AFB with a small technical intelligence element of 25 people. Its primary mission was to evaluate captured foreign documents, aircraft and associated equipment. Since 1942, FTD has greatly expanded its mission and resources to meet the challenge of worldwide technological developments and the accompanying national need for aerospace technical intelligence. Currently, FTD is comprised of approximately 1,600 people occupying a facility totaling about 460,000 square feet of office and laboratory space.

## THE INTELLIGENCE NEED

Today, foreign S&T intelligence assessments are an important factor in shaping national security and defense policy. A key input is FTD's technological threat projections which assist various national defense agencies in planning, developing and producing aerospace systems to ensure US air superiority.

The combat survivability of advanced weapon systems and development of aerospace support equipment are greatly dependent on the accuracy of FTD's assessments of the current and projected foreign threat. With these analyses, AFSC engineers can design systems and equipment to counter and neutralize enemy capabilities. A close interface is maintained between FTD and all other AFSC R&D divisions and laboratories. FTD also provides S&T information on advanced foreign technological developments for evaluation by AFSC design engineers to enable them to assess and, where applicable, apply any unique scientific data to R&D projects.

#### COOPERATION AND LIAISON

As the primary producer of foreign aerospace scientific and technical intelligence, FTD maintains close liaison, coordination and cooperation with all members of the US intelligence community, USAF operational commands and DOD R&D organizations. Additionally, it manages the centralized DOD automated S&T intelligence information data base for all other DOD intelligence production agencies.

#### FACILITIES

The completion of the Foreign Technology Division's current facility in 1976 culminated many years of planning and effort to consolidate all of the organization's resources and activities which were previously located in nine other buildings. Coupled with the modernization of FTD's specialized laboratory and computer facilities, this building provides the appropriate environment in which the Foreign Technology Division can satisfy the constantly growing need for foreign S&T aerospace intelligence.

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